



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JOHN TLUMACKI

Gearing up for performing at the Duxbury Free Library's teen coffeehouse next weekend are (from left) Tim George, Amanda Willis, Molly Shea, Shannon Trask and Jeph Tiberi.

Singing for their peers

Duxbury library's 'adult-free' coffeehouse encourages creative risk-taking by young performers

By Robert Knox
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

DUXBURY — Rumble Strip will take to the stage Saturday night at the Duxbury Free Library's teen coffee house, taking advantage of an opportunity to perform new, possibly innovative material before a receptive audience of other teenagers.

Not only is adult attendance not solicited for the teen coffee house, it's actively discouraged, said Chris Mehegan, 16, the founder of Rumble Strip. "Sometimes you look at the audience and the only adult is Ellen."

Ellen Snoeyenbos is the librarian who has organized the periodic coffee houses at the library for the past few years. "Adults tend to dominate," Snoeyenbos said. "We wanted to get away from a talent show setting." It's about kids entertaining kids, she said.

"The coffee house has been just a great, well-thought opportunity for the band to put out some of our stuff and see the response it generates, and sit in and have a good time," Mehegan said. "Ellen has done a good time making it a comfortable atmosphere . . . People are less apt to put their stuff out if adults are watching. She does a great job with knowing what the kids want."

"If you're nervous about performing in front of large groups of people, it's a small place," he said. "People get up and do solo acoustic songs and sing along with a CD. Sometimes someone plays something on piano or drags in a keyboard." Such a loose musical approach, he noted, might not go over in front of a large audience dominated by adults.

Mehegan, a Duxbury resident who attends Tabor Academy in Marion, plays guitar and trumpet. Guitar is a "fun thing," Mehegan said. "Trumpet is a more

professional interest."

Among the others signed up for Saturday's coffee house are singer Jeph Tiberi, recently back from college; Shannon Trask, who plays keyboard and sings; and singer Molly Shea. Jack Goodhue's jazz band from Marshfield is also signed up to play. A combo, the group includes sax, trumpet, and drum and has a fondness for Herbie Hancock compositions.

There have also been poets and modern dancers in the past, said

Snoeyenbos, who has been holding the coffee house at the library for a few years. Her promotional material for the event promises an "enthusiastic youth-only audience," which will make "performing

new material a guaranteed ego-booster!"

Tim George, who plays saxophone in Rumble Strip, concurs. "That definitely sounds like it. It's a good place to let loose original ideas."

The band plays "music that we enjoy," George, 16, said. "We do covers. We perform original songs."

The band recently performed at a Tabor Academy "battle of the bands," a traditional outlet for young rock musicians, he said. They performed a classic Steven Stills tune, "Love the One You're

With," and Sublime's "What I Got."

Another feature of the coffee house is the range of young people who feel comfortable there, Mehegan said, from the "older guys" who come back after

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CHRIS MEHEGAN
*Tabor Academy musician,
on Duxbury coffeehouse*

graduating from Duxbury High, to current high school students like himself, and some younger students like his brother, Tyler, 13, the band's drummer.

"It's a kind of reunion," Snoeyenbos said. "That's the social aspect."

A special feature of the teen coffee house is the group jam at the end. The last time the coffee house was held, participants got together and discussed ideas for a theme to jam on. They came up with Herbie Hancock's "Chameleon," George said. With their saxes, trumpets and guitars, he said, "everyone got on stage and played the same theme. It was a big jam session. It was great."

The next coffeehouse is May 25, at 7:30 p.m., in the Merry Meeting Room of the Duxbury Free Library, 77 Alden St. Musicians, dancers, singers, comics, and actors may register by calling Ellen Snoeyenbos at 781-934-2721, ext. 106.

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